Or, visit your nearest commercial member of A.H.S. His specialized advice will prove invaluable.

Be prepared to graft stock now sprouting from below winter-damaged plants. Save those large root systems and you will be rewarded with much more vigorous plants than newly rooted stock can give you.

Last years seedlings should now be in the open ground or in larger containers. Feed them with a high potash fertilizer to promote early bloom. If a seedling shows promise, but refuses to grow, graft it on vigorous stock. The extra push may cause it to bloom.

* * * * * * * * *

CULTURE FROM FLORIDA'S WEST COAST

-Ailene Craig

With the growing season upon us, spring rains just beginning, and Hibiscus Shows galore in store throughout the summer; all thoughts are centered on the question "What to do for my hibiscus now?"

Beginning the last of February this winter I did a complete weeding and fertilizing job on every hibiscus in my yard, pruning at that time only the larger more hardy and vigorous growing plants. I am convinced that it is best to cut only what is needed to keep a plant in shape, except on plants like Mary Morgan, Douglas McArthur, etc. that get out of bounds so rapidly. On these very fast and vigorously growing varieties I close my heart completely and cut heavily always trying to cut just above an eye.

My personal experience in fertilizing hibiscus has made me a firm believer in a "little and often" - saving the heavy hand for the water hose. I have just completed another application of fertilizer in which I used an 8-8-8 analysis after first thoroughly soaking the soil around the plants. I then proceeded to use a top dressing of sheep manure, then mulched with cane litter being sure to keep the mulch about four

or five inches away from the base. I have seen instances where heavy mulching right up to the base has caused a damp rot to set in on the bark and the entire plant was soon gone. In most instances I extend the mulch out to the tip of the branches.

Any fertilizer used should contain nitrogen and potassium as these are highly soluble and leach out of the soil after a few rains. This is especially true when humus is in short supply. I am of the belief that a top dressing of sheep manure adds humus to the soil and after I experimented with the use of it on several plants I found its use more than justified the small expense entailed.

I plan to use a small amount of the 8-8-8 every month or so throughout the summer. Two good handsful on the smaller plants, a little more on the larger ones should take care of their needs.

A thorough watering every 5 or 6 days should be sufficient if you have mulched well.

Check your plants for insects of all kinds. I like to dispense with oil emulsion sprays during the hot summer months and rely on cold smoke or chlordane dusted on either after a rain or a light sprinkling by the hose. In some rare instances if these fail I use Malathion after the sun has gone down far enough to be off the plants in need of attention. By morning the fog or dew has weakened the strength but the Malathion has had enough time to do its damage to the insects.

* * * * * * * * *

GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR HIBISCUS CULTURE BELOW THE 27TH PARALLEL

-W. Bruce Parnell

New growth and bloom buds should be well under way by now, and all cold weather damage disappeared. These new buds will give you better flowers than u-